



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340

July 15, 1988

Mr. Tom Paluso
Chief Engineer
Soldier Creek Coal Company
P. O. Box I
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Paluso:

Re: Conditional Approval, Soldier Creek Coal Company, Soldier Canyon Mine, EXP/007/018-88(A), Folder #3, Carbon County, Utah

As was discussed with you on the telephone July 15, 1988, it appears that the Division improperly issued approval for the above-referenced exploration plan on July 12, 1988, by not including stipulations from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as conditions to approval.

The BLM stipulations are hereby transmitted. As discussed with you on the telephone, instead of using the seed mix referenced in Stipulation 16, please use the permanent reclamation seed mix for the area, as committed to in your original submittal received May 12, 1988. Dennis Willis of the BLM has agreed to this change.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Susan C. Linner
Permit Supervisor/
Reclamation Biologist

djh
Attachment
cc: M. Bailey, BLM
J. Helfrich
J. Leatherwood
P.F.O.
0835R/53

File ^{CEP} ~~AD~~/007/018-88A



United States Department of the Interior

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(U-066)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Moab District
Price River Resource Area
900 North 700 East
Price, Utah 84501

JUN 29 1988

RECEIVED
JUL 1 1988

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Susan C. Linner
State of Utah - Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Dear Ms. Linner:

The preliminary plans for coal exploration, Soldier Creek Coal Company, Soldier Canyon Mine, CEP/007/018-88A, Carbon County, Utah have been reviewed by our office staff.

The BLM has no objection to these plans if the enclosed stipulations are attached to your approval..

Sincerely yours,

Area Manager

Enclosures:
Stipulations

cc: UDWR, Price

1. The BLM Area Manager shall be notified 48 hours prior to start and completion of the program.

2. The lessee/licensee is responsible to see that all personnel contracted or otherwise doing work on the exploration program are aware of these approval requirements and abide by all regulations and stipulations governing this program. Any changes to the approved exploration plan must receive approval from the Area Manager prior to implementation.

3. When artesian flows or water horizons with possible development potential are encountered, the BLM Area Manager shall be notified immediately so that a determination may be made concerning their development potential. When possible, water samples shall be collected by the operator for analysis by the BLM. A written report is required upon completion of exploration as noted by Stipulation 9 H.

4. Upon completion of down-hole procedures, all drill holes shall be properly sealed from the bottom to the collar. Any variance from the procedures itemized below must be approved by the Area Manager.

A. Drill holes in coal deposits amenable to underground mining must be cemented from the bottom of the hole to at least 50 feet above the highest minable coal bed (4 feet thick or more) or aquifer.

5. Drill holes in coal deposits must be plugged with cement. Cementing aquifers would also be applicable as above.

6. If adverse downhole conditions prevent a completed drill hole from being properly plugged after attempting all standard industry plugging procedures, the Area Manager will be contacted immediately to make a determination as to a final plugging method.

7. The hole location is to be marked by placing an approved marker made of galvanized steel, brass, aluminum, or similar non-corrosive metal in the concrete plug. Such markers are to show hole number, year drilled, lessee/licensee name, and as feasible, the section, township, and range in which the hole is located. Top of concrete plug, if located in cultivated field, must be set below normal plow depth (10 to 12 inches). In noncultivated areas, all marker caps should not protrude above the ground level.

8. The Area Manager shall be notified as to the time when the first hole is to be plugged so that a representative of the BLM may arrange to observe the plugging procedure. Subsequent observations of other holes being plugged will be arranged as appropriate.

9. Upon completion of exploration activities, a report as required by 43 CFR 3485.1 (formerly 30 CFR 211.62) shall be submitted to the Moab District Office. The report at a minimum must contain the following:

A. Location(s) and serial number(s) of lands under Federal lease or license on which exploration was conducted.

B. A description of the completed exploration operations that includes the number of holes drilled, total depth of each hole, and the completion date of each hole.

C. A map showing the locations of all holes drilled, other excavations, and the coal or tar sand outcrop lines as appropriate. The scale of the map shall not be less than 1 inch equals 1 mile.

D. Analysis of coal or tar sand samples and other pertinent tests obtained from exploration operations.

E. Copies of all in-hole mechanical or geophysical stratigraphic surveys or logs, such as electric logs, gamma ray-neutron logs, sonic logs, or any other logs. The records shall include a lithologic log of all strata penetrated and conditions encountered, such as water, gas or any unusual conditions.

F. Status of reclamation of the disturbed areas.

G. Any other information requested by the District Manager.

H. Hydrologic reports using the attached form.

10. An individual lease or license bond in an amount to be determined by the Area Manager shall have been filed with the proper office before commencement of exploration activities. The bond shall be used as required to cover costs incurred by the BLM to correct any violation of this program.

11. The project must meet VRM Class III guidelines. Changes in form, line, color, and texture may be evident, but they must be subordinated to the strength of the existing landscape.

Stipulations 12 and 13 apply only if drilling is to be commenced before July 15.

12. The company shall conduct an aerial raptor survey of all suitable cliff habitat within .5 miles of the proposed drill sites. Work shall be completed and reported to the authorized officer prior to initiation of surface disturbance. The survey shall be conducted by helicopter by a qualified raptor specialist experienced in raptor cliff nesting surveys. The survey should document and map all raptor nests on 7.5 minute USGS topographic maps and determine current activity status of each nest located.

The helicopter and pilot must be carded by the United States Department of Interior Office of Aircraft safety in order to permit personnel from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or BLM the option to participate in the survey.

13. The holder shall not conduct construction activities within 0.5 miles or a designated buffer zone from active raptor nest sites during the nesting period, February 15 to July 15. Buffer zones and/or adjustments to the nesting period will be determined by the authorized officer in consultation with the USFWS and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR).

14. Blading and the removal of vegetation from the roadbed will be allowed only to the extent that a safe, drivable surface is obtained. The travel width will be no greater than 12 feet.

15. Reclamation of the roadbed will occur the same year that the exploration drilling is done. Reclamation will generally include, but not necessarily be limited to, loosening of the earth, pulling vegetative debris back into the roadbed, fertilizing, seeding, and construction of waterbars. Mulching may be required, especially where grades are steep. Specific needs will be discussed at a prereclamation conference between representatives of Soldier Creek Mine, the dirt contractor, and the BLM.

16. Fertilization will be at the rate of 50 lbs. nitrogen and 50 lbs. phosphorous per acre. The following seed list will be used:

<u>Plant Species</u>	<u>Pounds/Acre Pure Live Seed</u>
Crested wheatgrass	4
Yellow sweetclover	2
Fourwing saltbush (Rincon variety or seed collected at 6,700 feet or above)	<u>4</u>
Total	10

All seed and fertilizer will be raked into the soil. Failure to obtain satisfactory revegetation may necessitate a followup seeding attempt after the second growing season.

REPORT OF WATER OBSERVED

Company: _____ Lease/License Number: _____

Address: _____ Drill Hole Number: _____

_____ Date Completed: _____

_____ Total Depth: _____

Company Contact: _____

Phone Number: _____

Drilling Contractor: _____

Address: _____

Company Contact: _____

Phone Number: _____

Location of Hole: T. ___ S., R. ___ E., SLE&M, Section. ___: ___ $\frac{1}{2}$ ___ $\frac{1}{2}$ ___ $\frac{1}{2}$

Collar Elevation of Hole: _____ Hole Diameter: _____

Drilling Method/Medium: _____

Static Water Level: _____

Acquifer #1

Depth below Collar Elevation: _____ Formation: _____

Rock Type: _____ Yield(GPM): _____

Date Reported to BLM: _____ Requirements of BLM: _____

_____ Water Sample Provided to BLM? _____

Acquifer #2

Depth below Collar Elevation: _____ Formation: _____

Rock Type: _____ Yield(GPM): _____

Date Reported to BLM: _____ Requirements of BLM: _____

_____ Water Sample Provided to BLM? _____

*Refer to Stipulation Number 3